

  
Director, Foreign Broadcast  
Information Service

FBIS-0025/85

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18 January 1985

Deputy Director for  
Science and Technology  
Room 6E45, Headquarters

Re the attached note from  
FBIS/London, quoting the British  
magazine "The Economist." It  
wasn't the "first instance of  
scoop-by-satellite," but certainly  
another case of FBIS monitoring  
of the facsimile transmission of  
SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and was the  
first monitored report on the  
postponement of the Sofia summit  
conference, possibly the first  
report to reach U.S. sources.  
The speculation, of course, is  
that the conference was postponed  
because of Chernenko's health.

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REF WAB81

SERVICE: ECONOMIST'S GUESSWORK

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FOLLOWING IS FROM 19 JAN ISSUE OF "THE ECONOMIST," PAGE 55,  
ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE MYSTERY OF THE SATELLITE SCOOP:"

"ONE INTRIGUING BY-PRODUCT OF ALL THIS IS THE WAY THE NEWS  
OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SOFIA SUMMIT LEAKED OUT. ON JANUARY  
14TH, WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES IN MOSCOW RECEIVED A TIP, APPARENTLY  
FROM AMERICAN SOURCES, THAT THE NEWSPAPER SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA WAS  
GOING TO CARRY THE NEWS ON ITS FRONT PAGE THE NEXT DAY. THE TIP  
PROVED CORRECT. ONE INSPIRED GUESS IS THAT WESTERN ELECTRONIC  
SPIES HAD MANAGED TO SNATCH A LOOK, AS IT WERE, AT THE NEWSPAPER'S  
FRONT PAGE WHILE IT WAS BEING BEAMED BY SATELLITE FROM MOSCOW  
TO PRINTING PLANTS ACROSS THE SOVIET UNION. IF SO, WAS THIS  
THE FIRST INSTANCE OF SCOOP-BY-SATELLITE?"

[REDACTED] DH 18/1104Z JAN

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